

March 15, 2004 Appln. No. 109/552,564
Amd. dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 28, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A local area network within a building for transporting data among a plurality of data units, the local area network comprising at least one wired segment and at least one non-wired segment, wherein said at least one wired segment includes:
- (a) at least one electrically-conducting line within the building, said electrically-conducting line having at least two conductors and operative to transport data communication signals;
 - (b) at least two outlets, each installed in a wall of the building and each operative for coupling to said electrically-conducting line; and
 - (c) at least one wired modem coupled to said electrically-conducting line, and operative to communicate over said electrically-conducting line; and wherein said at least one non-wired segment is operative to communicating data without electrically-conducting media and includes at least one non-wired modem, wherein at least one of said outlets couples said at least one wired segment to said at least one non-wired segment, and wherein said at least one electrically-conducting line is furthermore operative for concurrently distributing a service other than the transport of data communication signals.

2. (original) The local area network as in claim 1 wherein said service is one of a telephone service, an electrical power service, and a cable television service.
3. (original) The local area network as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said electrically-conducting lines is a telephone line and wherein at least one of said outlets is a telephone outlet.
4. (currently amended) The local area network as in claim 3, wherein said telephone line is furthermore operative to provide telephony service concurrently with data communications.
5. (original) The local area network as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said electrically-conducting lines is a power line and wherein at least one of said outlets is a power outlet.
6. (previously presented) The local area network as in claim 5, wherein said power line is furthermore operative to carry electrical power concurrently with data communications.
7. (original) The local area network as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said electrically-conducting lines is a cable television line, and wherein at least one of said outlets is a cable television outlet.
8. (previously presented) The local area network as in claim 7, wherein said cable television line is furthermore operative to carry television signals concurrently with data communications.

9. (previously presented) The local area network as in claim 1, wherein said non-wired segment is furthermore operative to communicate data by light.

10. (original) The local area network as in claim 9, wherein said light is infrared.

11. (previously presented) The local area network as in claim 1, wherein said non-wired segment is furthermore operative to communicate data by electromagnetic transmission.

12. (original) The local area network as in claim 11, wherein said electromagnetic transmission is radio-frequency transmission.

13. (previously presented) The local area network as in claim 1, wherein said non-wired segment is furthermore operative to communicate data by sound.

14. (original) The local area network as in claim 13, wherein said sound is audible sound.

15. (original) The local area network as in claim 13, wherein said sound is inaudible sound.

16-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A kit for upgrading existing wiring of a building to support a local area network having at least one wired segment and at least one non-wired segment, the kit comprising:

- (a) an outlet for coupling to the existing wiring; and
- (b) an adapter module for coupling said outlet to the non-wired segment, wherein said adapter module contains:

- i) at least one wired modem operative for transporting data communication signals over the existing wiring, and
- ii) at least one non-wired modem operative for transporting data communication signals without an electrically-conducting medium.

21. (previously presented) The kit as in claim 21, wherein said adapter module is further operative for data handling and protocol converting.

22. (original) The kit as in claim 21, wherein said adapter module is integrated within said outlet.

23. (original) The kit as in claim 21, wherein said adapter module is partially integrated within said outlet.

24. (original) The kit as in claim 21, wherein said wired modem is a telephone-line modem and said outlet is a telephone outlet.

25. (original) The kit as in claim 21, wherein said wired modem is a power-line modem and said outlet is a power outlet.

26. (original) The kit as in claim 21, wherein said wired modem is a cable television-line modem and said outlet is a cable television outlet.

27. (previously presented) An adapter module for use in upgrading existing wiring of a building so as to support a local area network having at least one wired segment coupled to an outlet and at least one non-wired segment, the adapter module coupling said outlet to the non-wired segment and comprising:

- i) at least one wired modem operative for transporting data communication signals over the existing wiring, and
- ii) at least one non-wired modem coupled to said at least one wired modem and operative for transporting data communication signals without an electrically-conducting medium.

28. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 27, being further operative for data handling and protocol converting.

29. (original) The adapter module as in claim 27, being fully integrated within said outlet.

30. (original) The adapter module as in claim 27, being partially integrated within said outlet.

31. (original) The adapter module as in claim 27, wherein said wired modem is a telephone-line modem and said outlet is a telephone outlet.

32. (original) The adapter module as in claim 27, wherein said wired modem is a power-line modem and said outlet is a power outlet.

33. (original) The adapter module as in claim 27, wherein said wired modem is a cable television-line modem and said outlet is a cable television outlet.

34. (previously presented) An outlet for use in upgrading existing wiring of a building so as to support a local area network having at least one wired segment and at least one non-wired segment, the outlet comprising:

at least one wired modem adapted to be connected to the existing wiring for transporting data communication signals over the existing wiring, and at least one non-wired modem coupled to the wired modem for transporting data communication signals between the non-wired segment and the wired modem.

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) A method for upgrading existing wiring within a building to support a network for transporting data communication signals, the network having a wired segment and a non-wired segment, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a wired modem;
- (b) providing a non-wired modem;
- (c) coupling the modems through providing an adapter operative for handling data communication signals between the wired segment and the non-wired segment;
- (d) providing an outlet; and
- (e) equipping said outlet with said wired modem, said non-wired modem, and said adapter.

38. (currently amended) An adapter module for use in upgrading existing wiring of a building so as to support a local area network having at least one wired segment coupled to an outlet and at least one non-wired segment, the adapter module comprising:

means for detachably electrically and mechanically coupling said module to the outlet, and
at least one non-wired modem operative for transporting data communication signals to and from said wired segment, when said module is coupled to the outlet,

over said at least one non-wired segment ~~without an electrically conducting medium.~~

39. (currently amended) The adapter module as in claim 38,
further comprising at least one wired modem for transporting
data communication signals over the at least one wired segment
to enable wherein the at least one wired segment is operative
for to concurrently distributing~~distribute~~ data communication
signals and a service other than data communication signals,
and the service is one of a telephone service, an electrical
power service, and a cable television service.

40. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 38,
wherein the wired segment includes a telephone line and
wherein the outlet is a telephone outlet.

41. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 40,
wherein said telephone line is furthermore operative to
provide telephony service concurrently with data
communications.

42. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 38,
wherein the wired segment includes a power line and wherein
the outlet is a power outlet.

43. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 42,
wherein said power line is furthermore operative to carry
electrical power concurrently with data communications.

44. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 38,
wherein the wired segment includes a cable television line,
and wherein the outlet is a cable television outlet.

45. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 44,
wherein said cable television line is furthermore operative to

March 15, 2004 Appln. No. 109/552,564
Amd. dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 28, 2004

carry television signals concurrently with data communications.

46. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 38, wherein said non-wired segment is operative to communicate data by light.

47. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 46, wherein said light is infrared.

48. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 38, wherein said non-wired segment is operative to communicate data by electromagnetic transmission.

49. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 48, wherein said electromagnetic transmission is radio-frequency transmission.

50. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 38, wherein said non-wired segment is operative to communicate data by sound.

51. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 50, wherein said sound is audible sound.

52. (previously presented) The adapter module as in claim 50, wherein said sound is inaudible sound.
